

SENATE, No. 1690

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

210th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 24, 2002

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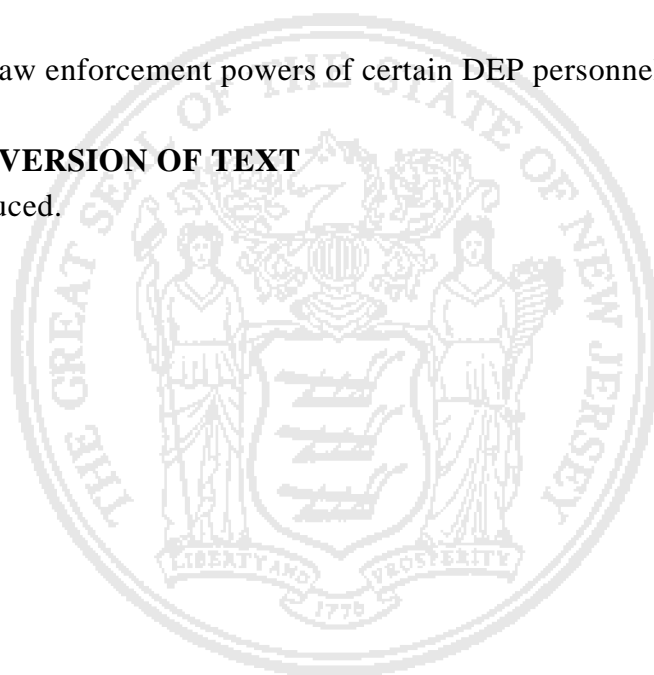
Senator Ciesla

SYNOPSIS

Expands law enforcement powers of certain DEP personnel.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 7/1/2003)

1 AN ACT concerning the law enforcement powers of certain
2 Department of Environmental Protection personnel and amending
3 P.L.1977, c.167 and P.L.1983, c.324.

4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:

7
8 1. Section 1 of P.L.1977, c.167 (C.13:1A-6.1) is amended to read
9 as follows:

10 1. The Commissioner of the Department of Environmental
11 Protection shall have the power to vest in the conservation officers of
12 the Division of Fish and Wildlife and the park rangers[, park
13 superintendents] and law enforcement operation officers of the
14 Division of Parks and Forestry[, while such personnel are on duty,]
15 at all times the power to arrest without warrant any person violating
16 any law of this State committed in their presence and bring the
17 offender before any court having jurisdiction to receive the complaint
18 of such violation. The Department of Environmental Protection, with
19 the approval of the Attorney General, shall establish and maintain a
20 suitable law enforcement training program for such personnel.

21 (cf: P.L.1977, c.167, s.1)

22

23 2. Section 21 of P.L.1983, c.324 (C.13:1L-21) is amended to read
24 as follows:

25 21. The commissioner of the department shall have the power to
26 vest in State Park Rangers and other personnel of the department [,
27 while such personnel are on duty,] at all times the power to arrest
28 without warrant any person violating any law of the State committed
29 in their presence and bring the offender before any court having
30 jurisdiction to receive the complaint of such violation. These personnel
31 are hereby authorized to carry firearms [while in the actual
32 performance of their official duties] at all times. The department, with
33 the approval of the Attorney General, shall establish and maintain a
34 law enforcement training program for such personnel.

35 (cf: P.L.1983, c.324, s.21)

36

37 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

38

39

40 STATEMENT

41

42 This bill would authorize the Commissioner of the Department of

EXPLANATION - Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 Environmental Protection (DEP) to vest in State Park Rangers and
2 other personnel of the DEP the power to effectuate arrests and carry
3 firearms at all times. The bill also authorizes the commissioner to vest
4 conservation officers in the Division of Fish and Wildlife in the DEP
5 and the park rangers and law enforcement operation officers of the
6 Division of Parks and Forestry in the DEP with these powers. Under
7 current law, DEP employees vested with such powers may effectuate
8 arrests and carry firearms only while they are on duty.